

PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida

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For Immediate Release

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BREVARD COUNTY DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO A DECADE IN PRISON ON FEDERAL NARCOTICS CHARGES

Orlando, Florida - Chief United States District Judge Patricia C. Fawsett today sentenced ANTWAN KNEEOR BROWNLEE, age 27, of Cocoa, to ten years' imprisonment for two counts of possession of crack cocaine with the intent to distribute. In addition to the prison sentence, BROWNLEE must serve eight years on supervised release and pay a special assessment of \$200. BROWNLEE pled guilty to both charges on May 31, 2006.

According to the evidence presented at the plea hearing, BROWNLEE sold an undercover ATF agent a total of 9.1 grams of crack cocaine in January 2005. During the transactions, BROWNLEE bragged that he also could obtain a handgun for the agent. BROWNLEE subsequently told the agent that he had sold the firearm to a third party for \$400. As a previously convicted felon, BROWNLEE is prohibited under federal law from possessing either firearms or ammunition.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the

City of Cocoa Police Department and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" (PSN) - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. In Brevard and Seminole Counties the State Attorney, Norm Wolfinger, is calling his PSN effort "Operation Cease Fire." The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr., and Special Assistant United States Attorney Gregory J. Konieczka of the Brevard County State Attorney's Office.